

From: Joe Provo
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 3:24pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May COncern,

The 'proposed final judgement' in United States v. Microsoft is unsatisfactory. The terms by which Microsoft must abide do very little to keep healthy competition alive, and do absolutely nothing to prevent Microsoft from resuming their abuse practices of thwarting interoperability.

Furthermore, Microsoft's "payment" in the form of self-promotion in a market they are demonstrably weak [education] is transparent. They are not wholly responsible for this payment and should be; their contribution is a trivial drop in their corporate coffers. If this form of "restitution" is to be implemented, they should be required to provide FUNDS to educational entities such that the educational institutions can perpetuate whatever existing standards, programs and vendor relationships they currently have. This would also give the educational entities the option of persuing used or new equipment as their plans allow. Foisting Microsoft cast-offs onto educational entities as a 'gift' is a blatant grab for a market in which Microsoft does poorly.

Sincerely,

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